

RURAL DISTRICT of BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

and

SURVEYOR

for the Year

1954

DANIEL H. WALDRON
JOHN C. SHARPE

List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

Addington	Marsh Gibbon
Adstock	Middle Claydon.
Akeley	Padbury
Barton Hartshorne	Poundon
Beachampton	Preston Bissett
Biddlesden	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Charndon	Shalstone
Chetwode	Steeple Claydon
Edgcott	Stowe
Foscott	Thornborough
Hillesden	Thornton
Leckhampstead	Tingewick
Lillingstone Dayrell	Turweston
Lillingstone Lovell	Twyford
Luffield Abbey	Water Stratford
Maids Moreton	Westbury

1954

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council :

A. POWELL, Esq.

General Purposes Committee :

Chairman :

W. DURRANT, Esq.

Members :

Col. R. L. Agnew	A. Hodges, Esq.
W. G. Beckett, Esq.	P. J. Hodges, Esq.
Mrs. K. D. Benfield	T. S. Hutchinson, Esq.
C. Bryant, Esq.,	Capt. G. Robarts.
S. M. Cotton, Esq.	Mrs. M. M. Spiers
Mrs. S. M. Crook	D. A. Stewart, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue	F. Tofield, Esq.
W. E. Good, Esq.	W. F. Wood, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. H. Heywood-Lonsdale	
	A. Powell, Esq. and W. Durrant, Esq.
	<i>ex officio members</i>

Public Health Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON,
O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade and Newport Pagnell, the Rural Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector :

J. C. SHARPE, M.R.SAN. I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

K. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.SAN.I.

Administrative Assistant :

C. H. BRAY.

BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SCHOOL LANE,
BUCKINGHAM.

June 26th, 1955.

To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

The birth rate shews a satisfactory rise over the previous year and is now 4 points higher than that for England and Wales.

The death rate is up but at 8.1 per 1,000 population it compares very favourably with that for the rest of the Country which remains steady at 11.3. Cancer and Heart and allied diseases accounted for 53 of the total of 91 deaths.

The infantile mortality rate is not so satisfactory. We had a total of 9 deaths in this group, giving a rate of 56.6 against the Country's 25.5. Seven of these deaths were under the age of 4 weeks.

In the realm of infectious diseases we had a good year. There were no epidemics and no cases of anterior poliomyelitis.

I should like to record once again another satisfactory year of co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their Staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics

		1953	1954
Area(in acres)		54,543	54,543
Population		10,180	10,180
Number of Inhabited Houses		2,681	2,724
Rateable Value		£41,355	£43,236
Rate per £		22/7 $\frac{1}{4}$	24/4
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£149/18/9	£164	(est.)

Births :

Legitimate—Males		75	73
,, Females		61	82
Illegitimate—Males		3	2
,, Females		1	2
Birth rate per 1,000 population		13.8	19.5
Do. (Bucks)		14.9	15.6
Do. (England & Wales)		15.5	15.2
Deaths—Males		38	45
,, Females		31	46
Death rate per 1,000 population		6.8	8.1
Do. (Bucks)		9.7	9.5
Do. (England & Wales)		11.4	11.3
Maternal Mortality Rate		Nil	Nil
Do. (England & Wales)		0.76	0.47

Infantile Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
per 1,000 live births		7.1	56.6
Ditto for Bucks		20.0	22.4
Ditto for England & Wales		26.8	25.5

Still Births		3	3
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PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:	1953			1954		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	1	1	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	0	2	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	6	6	12	10	8	18
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	4	6	10	6	6	12
Heart Disease	12	8	20	7	10	17
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	0	1	3	3	6
Bronchitis	0	1	1	2	3	5
Pneumonia	1	1	2	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	2	2	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	2	0	2	1	0	1
Nephritis	1	2	3	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	0	5	5
Violence	3	1	4	2	2	4
All other Causes	6	3	9	11	7	18
TOTALS		—	—	—	—	—
	38	31	69	45	46	91
	—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis had to be sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

This service, administered by the County Health Department, is now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with a sub-station in Bletchley to cover the North Bucks Area. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

3. NURSING FACILITIES.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

4. CLINICS.

(a) *Child Welfare Centres.* There are five static Welfare Centres serving the District, located as follows :

Buckingham (twice monthly)	Twyford (once monthly)
Steeple Claydon (do.)	Winslow (twice monthly)
Thornborough (once monthly)	

The work of the Mobile Welfare Unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Charndon.	Maids Moreton.
Beachampton.	Dadford.	Preston Bissett.
Calvert.	Leckhampstead.	Tingewick.
Chackmore.	Lillingstone Dayrell.	

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each Session, and a Medical Officer attended once monthly. Immunization against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was carried out at all centres. During the year attendances by children totalled 1,781.

Once again I should like to pay tribute to the good work done at these Clinics by the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committees.

(b) *Chest Clinic*.—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(c) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

5. HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals served the area during the year :—

Buckingham Hospital.
Aylesbury Group.
Oxford Group.
Northampton Group.
Creaton Sanatorium.
Peppard Sanatorium.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The service instituted under the National Health Service is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

During the year 85 cases were assisted.

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SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

The Foscote Treatment Plant continued to operate throughout the whole of 1954. As the summer months were unusually cold and wet there were no low flows in the river and it was unnecessary to resort to the use of stored water. The works are designed for a maximum average daily output of 2 million gallons per day. By the end of the year the out-put from the works had reached an average of 850,000 gallons per day.

During the year, the Bucks Water Board laid new mains in :—

Akeley ... 126 yards.

Barton Hartshorne 699 yards.

Westbury ... 141 yards.

The main at Akeley was to serve your new Council Estate. The main at Barton Hartshorne was laid to afford a small bulk supply to the Ploughley Rural District Council for consumption in the parish of Newton Purcell. The short length at Westbury was laid by the Board as a replacement.

Main Supply.

- (a) Quantity—Satisfactory.
- (b) Quality—Satisfactory.
- (c) Samples taken from the supply (which fell in Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) 1
- (d) Number of dwelling houses on supply ... 2442
- (e) Estimated number of population served ... 9629

Other Sources.

(a) Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit	...					8
(in all cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).						

Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past 8 years.

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result		65.75 % unsatisfactory.
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
1947	7	—	7	
1948	19	7	12	
1949	6	4	2	
1950	6	3	3	
1951	12	2	10	
1952	4	2	2	
1953	7	3	4	
1954	12	4	8	
Totals	73	25	48	

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams and water courses throughout the district are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and adequate disposal arrangements for sewage would obviate to a large degree such pollution.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Some progress was made during the year on the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal in the village of Marsh Gibbon. This scheme went out to tender and commencement was made early in July. By the end of the year approximately 25% of the work had been completed. The scheme comprises a modern sewage disposal works with pumping station, balancing, sedimentation tanks and percolating filter, as well as

approximately 1,670 yards of sewer, to pick up points of pollution from existing ditches. The Council will recollect representations made in the past by the Thames Conservancy Board about the pollution of the stream and with the completion of the new works this will cease.

Further representations were made to the War Department with regard to the extension of the Tingewick Disposal Works which are very much over-loaded. In consequence the Council went out to tender at the latter end of the year and a contract was let. The work is due to commence early in 1955. It is only due to the maintenance and attention that has been given to these works that they have functioned satisfactorily and it is hoped that with the completion of the new extension, a more satisfactory effluent will be obtained.

The Steeple Claydon, Chackmore and Thornborough works continue to give satisfaction and the purchase of an Allen Grass Cutting Scythe has helped greatly in the maintenance work, especially during the summer months.

Of the Priority Schemes, the following still remain to be carried out :—

1. Padbury and Adstock.
2. Akeley.
3. Charndon.
4. Twyford

All these schemes were in various stages of preparation in 1939 and it is hoped that the Ministry will sanction and allow them to proceed as quickly as possible, for there still remains a number of smaller parishes where the need for modern disposal arrangements is urgently needed.

Works of maintenance on the sewers and sewage disposal sites have again been carried out in a satisfactory manner, which is in no little part due to the co-operation of the outside staff and notably the foreman.

4. WATER CLOSETS

No conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out by the Council during the year. Private individuals have done work of this nature to various properties.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The arrangements for the monthly collection and disposal of household refuse continued during the year. A monthly kerbside collection is made from practically every dwelling in the district, but the Council will have to give thought to a more frequent collection than once a month, for a number of complaints were again received regarding the inadequacy of the collection. Most householders would welcome a fortnightly collection, which, of course, would be a distinct improvement on the present collection. Many rural districts, however, give a weekly collection.

Disposal arrangements are carried out at the Charndon Tip and during the summer months frequent spraying was carried out to combat fly nuisance. Regular inspection was made for the presence of rodents. Every effort was made to keep the tip in a presentable condition, but this proved difficult with the existing very small labour force.

Cesspool and septic tank emptying continues to be carried out by contract and this has been executed in a satisfactory manner.

The total income for the year from the sale of waste paper, scrap iron and other salvaged materials was £79 5s. 9d. which was an increase of £51 5s. 9d. over the year 1953. The prices of waste paper and scrap iron increased slightly during the year but it is uneconomic to make special collections for this purpose.

Household Refuse—Schedule of Collection

Padbury, Addington and Verney Junction

First TUESDAY in the month.

Adstock, Thornborough

The WEDNESDAY after 1st Tuesday in the month.

Beachampton, Thornton, Leckhampstead

The THURSDAY after 1st Tuesday in the month.

Foscote, Maids Moreton, Middle Claydon

The FRIDAY after 1st Tuesday in the month.

Steeple Claydon

Second TUESDAY in the month.

Edgcott, Marsh Gibbon

The WEDNESDAY after 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Poundon, Charndon, Twyford

The THURSDAY after 2nd Tuesday in the month

Hillesden, Preston Bissett, The Woodlands,

Barton Hartshorn

The FRIDAY after 2nd Tuesday in the month.

Chetwode, Tingewick, Water Stratford

Third TUESDAY in the month.

Radclive/Chackmore, Shalstone, Biddlesden

The WEDNESDAY, after 3rd Tuesday in the month.

Westbury, Turweston

The THURSDAY after 3rd Tuesday in the month.

Akeley, Stowe

The FRIDAY after 3rd Tuesday in the month.

Lillingstone Lovell, Lillingstone Dayrell

Fourth TUESDAY in the month.

6. SCHOOLS

Some improvements were carried out in connection with the modernisation of sanitary arrangements but a number of village schools are still in possession of the old lavatory bucket system and lack modern washing and cloakroom facilities.

7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but an adjacent Public School gives facilities for the use of their private pool to rural residents during out of term time. This pool is part of an existing lake, sited within the School grounds.

It is hoped that the Borough of Buckingham will open a new swimming pool early next year which will no doubt be available to rural residents.

8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

9. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Work during the year by the Rodent Operative has again been satisfactory and was carried out without the necessity of invoking statutory action.

Work of Inspection and Control.

(a) Number of Complaints received	...	...	70
(b) Number of Inspections and Visits carried out	...	...	1613
(c) Number of rat infested areas cleared	...	...	178

During the year 24 wasps nests were destroyed on Council property.

10. GENERAL SURVEY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS DURING THE YEAR.

The general work of the Department during the year has increased considerably and has been of a varied nature. Approximately 1,300 extra visits have been made over those for the previous year. As far as possible, continuous attention has been given to slaughterhouses and meat inspection and in this connection, the co-operation of the butchers has been most helpful.

Improvement and conversion work has considerably added to the work of the Department and during the year a preliminary survey of unfit houses was undertaken. The commencement of the Marsh Gibbon Sewerage Scheme has also entailed additional work.

Every effort was made, however, to see that day to day routine work did not suffer.

Towards the end of the year, the Council considered the advisability of providing additional inspectorial staff in view of the amount of work being carried out by the Department and decided to advertise for a Junior Inspector.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1954 is appended below:—

Total Numbers of Premises visited	...	...	2821
Complaints received	...	...	36
Informal Notices served	...	...	75
Statutory Notices served	...	...	6

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 -1948

The table below shews the position during 1954 as far as work places and factories are concerned and the inspections made for purposes as to health and sanitation :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupier prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	15	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	18	15	—	—

Only one outworker was notified in accordance with Section 110 of Part VIII of the Act and after inspection this person was found to be engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

TENTS, VANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All the sites were inspected during the year and were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition :

Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
Nuisances found to exist	...	...	...	...	...	4

DRAINAGE

A considerable amount of repairs and renewals to house drainage as well as drainage to new premises was supervised by the staff. I am of the opinion that good progress has been made during the last few years towards good drainage to house property. Owners in villages where main sewerage has been provided have come forward very readily to connect their properties to the sewer. The Council's policy in providing a lateral drain free of charge providing the premises are connected thereto within 12 months of the completion of the scheme, is a good one, besides giving an incentive to the owner it ensures that all road re-instatement is carried out at the same time.

Number of New drains examined	...	...	85
Number of visits for that purpose	...	...	259
Number of W.C.'s installed	...	...	48
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed	...	...	38

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928-1936

A survey was carried out during the year of all premises licensed to store petroleum spirit and as a result informal action was taken in 24 cases requiring certain works to be carried out in order to bring the installation up to the required standard. All licencees deposited detailed drawings with the Council for record purposes.

Number of Petroleum Lieenees, December, 1954 :

500 gallons or less	...	...	...	...	26
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	9
Over 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	4
					—
Total lieences issued	...	...	...	...	39
					—

One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Caleium
was issned during the year.

Number of inspections or tests carried out	...	45
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enquiries in eases of infectious Disease	31
Number of visits re disinfection	31

HOUSING AND BUILDING BYELAWS

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	...	...	12
Number of Plans deposited for other works	...	...	96
Visits in eonnection with Building Byelaws	...	...	494

OTHER CLASSIFIED VISITS

Housing visits in eonnection with conversion and improvement	...	...	...	...	...	115
Housing visits under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	843
Housing visits under the Public Health Aets	...	...	...	...	...	12
Visits re water supply	...	...	...	...	...	29
Visits re drainage and sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	347
Visits re refuse collection	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits re refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	...	80
Visits in eonnection with sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	258
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	5
General nuisanees	...	...	...	...	...	16
Overerowding	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Aeeumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Foul ditehes and ponds	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits to shops	...	...	...	...	...	76
Unelassified	...	...	...	...	...	58
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	7

SECTION D

Housing

The total number of Council houses erected post war is now 319. The rate of progress was slow, there being only 12 completed during the year. This was no doubt due to a smaller housing programme, for by the end of the year 32 were under construction as compared with 8 the previous year.

Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December 1954

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Total Completed	Under Construction
Adstock	12	—	12	—
Akeley	8	—	8	8
Beachampton	10	—	10	—
Biddulph	4	—	4	—
Charndon	6	—	6	—
Chetwode	4	—	4	—
Edgcott	8	—	8	—
Hillesden	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibon	16	—	16	8
Middle Claydon	4	—	4	—
Padbury	18	—	18	12
Poundon	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett	12	—	12	—
Radcliffe-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon	52	39	91	—
Thornborough	18	—	18	—
Thornton	4	—	4	—
Tingewick	33	10	43	—
Turweston	6	—	6	—
Twyford	6	—	6	4
Westbury	17	—	17	—
Total	270	49	319	32

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1954

12

Total number of houses built and owned by the Authority

618

Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to
December 1954

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Total Completed	Under Construction
Akeley	—	1	1	1
Adstock	2	1	3	—
Beachampton	4	—	4	—
Biddlesden	5	—	5	—
Charndon	—	10	10	2
Hillesden	1	—	1	—
Leckhampstead	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton	4	—	4	—
Marsh Gibbon	3	3	6	—
Padbury	6	—	6	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore ...	3	—	3	—
Steeple Claydon	1	2	3	1
Stowe	14	—	14	—
Thornborough	2	2	4	—
Tingewick	1	2	3	1
Turweston	2	1	3	—
Water Stratford	—	1	1	—
Westbury	6	—	6	—
Total	55	24	79	5

Total number of houses erected and occupied
during the year 1954 6

I am pleased to state that a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider a report on dwellings regarded as being suitable for action under either the Slum Clearance or Demolition Order provisions of the Housing Act 1936. The Sub-Committee met on a number of occasions and viewed the properties in the report. A total number of 166 houses was included in the original report but a small number of additional houses was brought to the Sub-Committee's notice by local representatives, which increased the total to 171 houses.

The result of the Sub-Committee's deliberations and inspections which were subsequently confirmed by the Council, are set out in the following table:—

SUMMARY OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN

Parish	No. of Houses to be Demolished	No. of Houses to be Deferred	No Action	Closed	Being Demolished
Adstock ...	8	6			
Barton Hartshorne ...	1				
Charndon ...	6				
Edgcott ...			3		
Hillesden ...	4				
Maids Moreton ...	11	1			
Marsh Gibbon ...	6	12	2	1	
Padbury ...	8	4			
Preston Bissett ...	14	5	4		
Steeple Claydon ...	1	4	2	1	
Thornborough ...	9	7	1		1
Tingewick ...	8	8			
Turweston ...	3	2			
Twyford ...	12	5			
Water Stratford ...	5	6			
	96	60	12	2	1

TOTAL 171

This programme will naturally have to be geared to the probable rate of re-building and a programme of re-housing will have to be considered during the coming year to enable this to take place.

Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.

Parish	Number of Houses	Number still occupied
Akeley ...	6	3
Beachampton ...	3	3
Stowe ...	7	7
Tingewick ...	2	2

INSPECTION AND ACTION DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	...	...	...	...	...	5

OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954

The new Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, Section 6, made changes concerning the licensing for temporary occupation of houses subject to existing Clearance Orders. The Defence (General) Regulations which have now been revoked, allowed a licence to be issued for a maximum period of 6 months but under the new Act licences can still be issued and the Council may specify the period but in no case can a licence be issued extending beyond 30th August 1957. During the year 5 licences were issued for this purpose.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, modified the conditions by which property owners can qualify for an improvement grant. There were 12 applications for grants, of which 11 received approval by the Council and the maximum grant of 50% was recommended in each case. The number of houses involved was 14.

Publicity in the National Press as to financial assistance available to property owners made considerably more work for the Department and many enquiries were received and preliminary investigations made, which may result in an increased number of applications for grant during the coming year.

HOUSING GENERAL

In connection with the Finmere Camp site, the Council continued its policy of re-housing the occupants and the subsequent demolition of the individual huts and it is hoped that if this policy continues, the whole camp will be demolished within a fairly reasonable time. The housing and sanitary conditions of the remaining huts have caused concern during the last few months.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was placed on the Statute Book during the year. The Act is quite a comprehensive one and one of its chief aims is to enable Landlords whose property is in good condition to claim a repairs increase on the rent. The Act enables the Local Authority to issue certificates of dis-repair upon application by tenants but no application had been received for such a certificate at the end of the year. Much has been said about Section 9, which sets out a standard of fitness for houses and it is felt that this may have an adverse affect owing to the fact that the new standard does not ally itself to the building bye-law standard. It remains to be seen how this will work out in practice.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of tuberculosis in three dairy herds in the district, whilst further samples denoted the presence of brucella abortus on eleven farms. Investigations were made in all cases and as a result of further veterinary inspections and the slaughtering of animals, the herds affected with tuberculosis were pronounced clear. As far as brucella abortus is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of Distributors on register	...	...	7
Inspections	...	...	6

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

“Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	3
“Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	1

It is anticipated that the whole area will be included in a Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order within the next month or two, for preliminary soundings have already been made by the Ministry of Food towards this end. This will mean that it will be illegal to sell milk in the area unless it is a specified one.

ICE CREAM

Total number of retailers on register	...	...	21
New applications received and licences granted			3
Inspections	...	...	14

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows:—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	...	...	+
" " II	...	...	...	...	I
" " III	...	...	...	...	Nil
" " IV	...	...	...	...	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Upon the decontrol of meat and livestock in July it was necessary to make special arrangements for the licensing and provision of slaughterhouses, so as to ensure that adequate facilities for slaughtering were available. To achieve this it was necessary to bring into use a number of private slaughterhouses.

A number of applications were received and as a result it was decided to grant licences providing the premises in each case were brought up to a good standard. Sufficient time was allowed each applicant in which to carry out the work of repair and modernization and in the meantime private slaughtering was allowed to continue.

The return to private slaughtering made considerable demands on the Department for the purpose of meat inspection and every effort was made to ensure that a 100% inspection was carried out. The following table gives details of the animals slaughtered and meat condemned from July to the end of the year.

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
No. killed	52	—	7	370	109
No. inspected	52	—	7	370	109
<i>All Diseases except tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcase condemned.	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	II	—	—	16	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	21.1%	—	—	4.32%	2.75%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	2	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.85%	—	—	—	4.59%

Parts or Organs condemned are classified as follows :

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Pork</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Total</i>
Plucks	—	—	2	2
Livers	10	1	7	18
Heads and Tongues ...	—	3	—	3
Hearts	—	—	2	2
Lungs	4	2	4	10
Part carcase	1	—	1	2
Miscellaneous	—	2	—	2

Approximate total weight 350 lb.

Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	158
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	36

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

New legislation was placed on the Statute Book during the year and known as the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954. It amends the 1933 Act in a number of ways. Local Authorities can now specify the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned by the licence holder and also the type of instrument to be used in stunning. The new Act also specifies that licences shall be granted for a period not exceeding 12 months.

Number of licensed slaughtermen	15
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OTHER FOOD

During the year, only one case of *cysticercus bovis*, as against 10 in the previous year, occurred in animals sent from this district for slaughter. Investigations were subsequently made but no further evidence was forthcoming as to the probable source of infection.

Foods condemned during the year, include the following :—

Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	93 lb.
Hind Quarter Beef	...	...	...	...	66 lb.
Imported Ewe Carcase	...	...	...	...	40 lb.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the District during the year.

BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	...	...	...	...	4
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	6
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	...	...	1

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

GENERAL

A good year from the point of view of notifiable infectious diseases although there were quite a number of cases of chicken pox and mumps.

NOTIFICATIONS

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Measles	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	8	8	16
Whooping Cough	5	6	11
Pneumonia ...	2	3	5
Erysipelas ...	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1
Malaria	1	—	1
Total ...	17	19	36

CANCER

This dread disease continues to take its toll. There were eighteen deaths from it during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

There was one death from tuberculosis during the year. Ten cases were notified, eight pulmonary and two non-pulmonary.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,
Medical Officer of Health.

JOHN C. SHARPE,
Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Printed by
E. N. Hillier & Sons, Ltd.,
Buckingham — Bucks.